

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

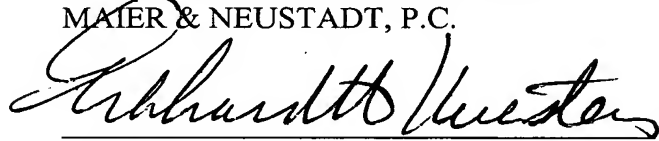
Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 25-32 are presently active in this case. Claims 25-32 added and Claim 1 canceled by the present supplemental preliminary amendment and Claims 2-24 previously canceled by the preliminary amendment filed January 29, 2004.

Examination on the merits of the newly submitted claims is believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 08/03)

I:\ATTY\EHK\AMEND-RESPONSES\0039\248091US-SUPPPreAMT1.DOC